

Caldwell School District
A response to:
E-RATE DEPLOYED UBIQUITOUSLY (EDU) 2011 PILOT PROGRAM
WC Docket No. 10-222

Applicant: Caldwell School District (CSD)

Address: 1502 Fillmore Ave.
Caldwell, ID 83605

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Introduction:

The Caldwell School District is proud to be the most rapidly improving district in Idaho. Hard work from teachers, administrators and students is paying off with great academic gains:

- In 2007, none of Caldwell's 10 schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), a federal benchmark for student achievement. This year, eight out of 10 made AYP, including both of our high schools.
- Caldwell's alternative high school, Canyon Springs, has made AYP three years in a row and increased its graduation rate to 100 percent — 28 of 28 seniors graduated this year.
- Caldwell High graduated the most students (329) in school history in May of 2010.
- All of the elementary schools and the two alternate schools this fall required students to follow a uniform dress code, which will increase academic achievement and decrease discipline problems.
- Caldwell built Idaho's only LEED Certified schools (one Silver, one Gold), which are high-performing and energy efficient. Caldwell's other nine school buildings have been upgraded with energy-efficient features, which will save millions in taxpayer dollars over the next 20 years.

The Caldwell School District managed to make these great academic gains over the last five years even though:

- The community is at 13 percent unemployment, the highest of major cities in Idaho.
- 80 percent of Caldwell students live below the poverty line and count on school for food, school supplies and even clothing.
- Nearly 60 percent of the students are Latino, and 30 percent of those students are from families where English is a second language.
- 70 percent of the students don't have access to the internet after the school day.

These factors have not stopped students from improving and succeeding because of the clear

mission and strategy of our leadership: Hire and retain the very best teachers. The teacher turnover rate was 22 percent five years ago. The turnover rate was almost zero this year.

The leadership in Caldwell strongly believes that every child deserves the very best tools, facilities and teachers. We make it happen. We believe that all children can learn and succeed and that it is our job to provide them that opportunity.

The next step to increasing academic achievement, is developing and sustaining community and business partnerships. The EDU2011 grant would be part of that puzzle and will guarantee that we will graduate a talented and diverse workforce.

1. Full Description

- a. Software applications are the core of the interactivity. CSD uses both free and paid software to engage students in learning. Moodle is used as a learning management system (LMS) for teachers and students to interact for classroom assignments, resources and activities. Compass Learning Odyssey and Plato are used to supplement instruction utilizing engaging video. This is used in both whole group instruction and a one on one lab environment. All of these programs utilize the internet for the storage of their content. These are just some of the programs that are maintained by the district. Teachers are always finding and using interactive web sites and integrating them into their daily instruction. CSD has two noted pilot programs that utilized 1:1 initiatives. Both of these programs have been in conjunction with Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA). One project includes a blended Algebra class, where a majority of the content is delivered online, but with a certified teacher in attendance delivering the material. The other project is with 5th grade math. This project also involves a 1:1 Samsung netbook but is actually developing the curriculum and is delivering that curriculum back to IDLA.

The city of Caldwell currently has a wifi network covering 80% of the city. The city is working with CSD currently on a very limited scale, testing our devices on their wifi network. The current usage of the wifi network is small compared with its capabilities, and has more than enough bandwidth to cover a 1:1 initiative at CSD. A proposed diagram is in Appendix A.

- b. CSD started using wifi within it's schools eight years ago and has now finalized it's blanket wifi infrastructure across all of our schools. This has allowed us to take our current web-based technologies and extend them further into the classroom. This connectivity is the basis for various interactive technologies. Hardware devices include HP and Dell laptops, Samsung netbooks, Apple iPads, and Android based devices. We also have a guest wireless network where faculty and vendors can securely use their personal wireless devices. Because of the wireless security in place, this guest wireless is logically separated from the production network, but utilizes the same hardware.

- c. With proper initial planning and setup, technical issues are minimal. As we extend the wireless out into the community, we strongly test the wireless settings internally. That way, as the devices leave the district, the transition is seamless to the end user. By standardizing our hardware, we are able to more easily train and remotely troubleshoot any problems. CSD's IT department has setup a formalized help desk using an automatic call distribution (ACD) software. This help desk will be extended to anyone utilizing the wireless system, both on campus and off.

With our current small pilots and deployments utilizing normal netbooks or small amounts of iPads and other mobile devices are manageable. However, a 1:1 initiative, especially one that extends across the entire district requires a device that is easily manageable, easily transferable, self-updating, has minimal or no local storage, contains a powerful desktop browser (critical for current education applications) and is easy to use. CSD believes that devices based on the new Google Chrome operating system is exactly that device. Because of great experiences over the past two years with Samsung netbooks and because of Samsung's partnership with Google, CSD is planning on using a Samsung netbook loaded with Chrome OS as it's primary device in its city-wide wireless initiative.

- d. Every person receiving a device will be required to complete a basic hardware course. This will help them solve most problems on their own. Once they are comfortable with the hardware, all the software utilized will be the same software they are trained on annually. Up until this year, CSD has provided a minimum of 5 professional development days. Because of reduced funding, the 2010-11 school year only includes 2 days. IT is working closely with the Federal Programs/Professional Development departments to outline a training calendar that will provide additional opportunities for employees and our community to further their knowledge and capabilities of integrating technology and learning to enhance real-world experiences.
- e. The community will play a huge part in this project. CSD has a very close relationship with the city. The United Way, the YMCA and the J. A. and Kathryn Albertson's Foundation are all non-profit organizations working with CSD to develop an early childhood education program that helps students early on, with the ultimate goal of increasing the college going rate of our graduates. On the private side, CSD has been in talks with Google and Cisco, which are interested in some type of financial support for this project. As CSD does routinely qualify for priority two equipment, careful consideration will be given to any type of donation of equipment to ensure there are no FCC or local procurement violations.

2. The poverty level based on the percentage of students eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch under the national school lunch program is 80%.
3. CSD is anticipating at least a 7% reduction in state funding for the 2011-2012 school year. This is on top of the 10% reduction from the state this year. Although exact numbers are unknown, IDEA and Federal Title monies are expected to be reduced. CSD has a large percentage of ELL and migrant students making Title monies very important to the sustainability of our programs.
4. Costs

Year 1						
Item	Quan	Cost	Total Cost	Discount	Eligible Amount	Ineligible Amount
Netbook	7000	\$400	\$2,800,000	0.00%	\$0	\$2,800,000
Data connection to City Network (per month)	12	\$2,100	\$25,200	85.00%	\$21420	\$3,780
Training Staff and Community (Days)	5	\$16,000	\$80,000	0.00%	\$0	\$80,000
IT Support	1	\$45,000	\$45,000	0.00%	\$0	\$45,000
Equipment to upgrade city wireless	1	\$11,190	\$11,190	85.00%	\$9511.5	\$1,679
Basic Maintenance	1	\$200,000	\$200,000	85.00%	\$170000	\$30,000
Total			\$3,161,390		\$200,932	\$2,960,459

Year 2+						
Item	Quan	Cost	Total Cost	Discount	Eligible Amount	Ineligible Amount
Netbook	1750	\$400	\$700,000	0.00%	\$0	\$700,000
Data connection to City Network (per month)	12	\$2,100	\$25,200	85.00%	\$21,420	\$3,780
Training Staff and Community (Days)	2	\$16,000	\$32,000	0.00%	\$0	\$32,000
IT Support	1	\$45,000	\$45,000	0.00%	\$0	\$45,000
Equipment to upgrade city wireless	1	\$10,000	\$10,000	85.00%	\$8,500	\$1,500
Basic Maintenance	1	\$200,000	\$200,000	85.00%	\$170,000	\$30,000
Total			\$1,012,200		\$199,920	\$812,280

5. CSD is committed to all ineligible costs listed above. Since final school and state budgets have not been approved for 2011-2012, the scale of the project would be subject to scaling back to select secondary schools. Outside funding sources, both private business and non-profit donations may play a major portion in the cost of the training and the netbook devices.
6. EDU2011 support for off-premise connectivity is a crucial part of this implementation. Without it, the project will not be sustainable.
7. Cost Comparison
 - a. Wireless - There is a significant savings by utilizing wifi over a cellular network. 7000 devices at \$40/month for typical cellular 3G service would be \$3.36 million per year. We estimate a basic maintenance contract of \$200,000 to maintain and repair wireless equipment.
 - b. End-user device - By using Chrome OS, we save \$125 per machine in typical Microsoft licensing.

- c. Device maintenance - Although difficult to put in numbers, by utilizing an end-user device that is self maintaining and stores nothing locally, a significant reduction in maintenance is anticipated. We predict we can manage all 7,000 with one internal person (costs included above).
- d. By not utilizing mobile devices, we keep capability with our current tools and programs. This decreases training costs and significantly increases adoption rates.

8. Technology Plan Approval from the Idaho State Department of Education



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

To: CALDWELL DISTRICT #132
From: Corey Simpson, State Educational Technology Coordinator
Subject: Technology Plan Approval Letter
Date: June 30, 2008

Having been designated by the Universal Service Administrative Company to approve technology plans for participants in the Schools and Libraries program in Idaho, I certify that **CALDWELL DISTRICT #132** has a technology plan that meets the five required elements in the checklist below as determined by the FCC (FCC 04-190, released August 13, 2004).

This technology plan covers the period starting on **June 30, 2008** ending on **June 30, 2011**.

Successful technology plans align the overall education or library service improvement objectives with the following five criteria. To qualify as an approved technology plan for the Schools and Libraries Program discount, the plan must meet these criteria:

- ✓ The plan establishes clear goals and a realistic strategy for using telecommunications and information technology to improve education or library services.
- ✓ The plan has a professional development strategy to ensure that staff knows how to use these new technologies to improve education or library services.
- ✓ The plan includes an assessment of the telecommunication services, hardware, software, and other services that will be needed to improve education or library services.
- ✓ The plan provides a sufficient budget to acquire and support the non-discounted elements of the plan: the hardware, software, professional development and other services that will be needed to implement the strategy.
- ✓ The plan includes an evaluation process that enables the school or library to monitor progress toward the specified goals and make mid-course corrections in response to new developments and opportunities and they arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corey Simpson".

Corey Simpson, Educational Technology Coordinator
Idaho State Department of Education
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0082
208-332-6992
crsimpson@sde.idaho.gov

cc: District Technology Coordinator

All applicants and service providers are required to retain documents related to the Universal Service Fund for a period of at least five(5) years from last date of service. The suggested list of documents to be retained can be found in Paragraphs 45-50 in the FCC's 5th Report and Order (FCC 04-190).

Office Location	Telephone	Speech/Hearing Impaired	Fax
650 West State Street	208-332-6800	1-800-377-3529	208-334-2228

9. The system is designed so that all CSD traffic from the shared wireless system is

tunnelled back through are current CIPA compliant protections already in place within the district. This is a very difficult task when using an outside cellular vendor and is another reason why our wifi solution is significantly innovative and elegant over other solutions.

10. Description of internal policies and enforcement

- a. Computer and Network Services Policy <http://www.caldwellschools.org/Policies/600/698.pdf>
<http://www.caldwellschools.org/Policies/400/426.pdf>
- b. Enforcement - each student will be required to take a 2 hour training before receiving any equipment. This training will enforce the importance of the equipment in the student's education and require a signed document to check out the equipment. Student losing or abusing equipment will be charged for the equipment and/or be given a chance to work within the school.

School only portion

1. 1502 Fillmore Avenue, Caldwell, ID 83605
2. Caldwell School District (142693)
 - a. Caldwell High School (95826)
 - b. Canyon Springs Middle School (95823)
 - c. Jefferson Middle School (95828)
 - d. Syringa Middle School (202239)
 - e. Lewis and Clark Elementary School (16023898)
 - f. Lincoln Elementary School (95824)
 - g. Sacajawea Elementary School (95821)
 - h. Van Buren Elementary School (95822)
 - i. Washington Elementary School (95825)
 - j. Wilson Elementary School (95819)
3. Public
4. This initiative will cover all curriculum: reading, math, social studies, science, P.E., Music and ancillary programs for which our students have access. It includes all grade levels K - 12. This project will include 6,200 students and 800 teachers and administrators. We believe that our district currently has the correct programs in place to make our students successful. By implementing technology that extends the availability of our programs we can greatly increase the benefits of those programs.
5. Increased student achievement and teacher retention are the measures in which this program will be evaluated. We anticipate AYP growth to go from 80% of our schools making AYP to 100% of our schools making AYP. We anticipate our turnover rate to stay near zero. We predict by extending our comprehensive learning environment with a

higher level of community involvement we will attract more motivated and highly qualified teachers. These teachers will be key in sustaining our AYP at 100%.

Appendix A

Caldwell School District Wireless Proposal

